

REMARKS

In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have modified Figure 11 as set forth in the attached drawing amendment to include the "Prior Art" reference requested by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicants have made the changes that the Examiner has requested with respect to Figure 7.

Applicants have amended the claims in order to comport with the requirements of 35 USC section 112. Applicants respectfully submit that the modified claims satisfy all the requirements of section 112 and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the claims identified in paragraph 4 of the office action.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 USC sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants presently claimed invention. More specifically, Applicants claimed invention is directed to new and improved systems and methods for reading out signal charge from an electronic imaging device which advantageously employs the use of the reset signal in selecting for reading out signal charge .

Applicants improved systems and methods advantageously allow higher density imaging devices while decreasing the number of required transistors and yet while also maintaining a high-quality imaging signal. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record provide no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding Applicants' advance in the art. In particular, Applicants note that there is no teaching or suggestion

whatsoever regarding an imaging system wherein a vertical scanning circuit is used for selecting pixels in units of rows by controlling a reset potential that is applied to selected reset switches. Applicants have reviewed the references cited by the Examiner as a basis for the prior art rejections and note that they do not disclose the advantageous innovations described by Applicants in the present application.

Specifically United States patent numbers 5,898,168 and 5,886,659 are merely directed to imaging devices wherein reset transistors have drains that are connected to fixed reference levels so that these references provide no teaching or suggestion regarding a pixel element that is selected by controlling a reset potential that is applied to the reset switches. The remaining references similarly fail to provide teaching or suggestion regarding Applicants claimed invention.

More specifically, as noted in the Applicants' specification at page 11, in response the occurrence of the reset pulse, the reset switch 14 goes on and the potential of the floating diffusion 13 is reset. As a result, because the amplifying transistor 15 is turned on, the pixels of the designated line go into selection state. See specifically the last full paragraph on page 11 of Applicant's specification.

It is through this use of the reset signal that Applicants are able to achieve selection as described in the instant specification. The references of record fail to provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding this advance in the art. Each of the references cited by the Examiner merely describe the use of a conventional reset function but the devices described in these references do not use the reset signal in the selection of a pixel for the purpose of reading information from the designated pixel.

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Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, because the references cited by the Examiner fail to provide any teaching or suggestion regarding the selection of pixels in units of rows by controlling a reset potential, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner now withdraw the rejections and allow all claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert J. Depke
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLC
131 S. Dearborn, 30th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Tel: (312) 263-3600
Attorney for Applicant

(Reg. #37,607)